



Side view looking towards the Vestry



The spirit of God is with you.

(Psalm 139 7-12)

Image courtesy of stushieart.com

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PROSPECT

**Magazine of Stepps Parish
Church**

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**Watch us on YouTube each
Sunday at 11.00 am.**

Follow us on Facebook.

www.steppsparishchurch.org

At the heart of our
community celebrating
faith and life to the full.

To submit an item for Prospect please
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Sunday Services Morning Worship at 11am

As we move into the next phase of the pandemic the Scottish Government have removed all COVID rules and restrictions, but the virus has not gone away. Instead of legal constraints the government are asking people to use 'COVID sense' to help protect themselves and others. The same principal of using 'COVID sense' should apply to our church buildings, congregational activities

For individuals, including ministers, staff and volunteers in churches this includes:

[Getting your vaccine](#) when offered to ensure you are fully protected

Staying at home and resting if you have symptoms

Opening windows when meeting indoors

[Wearing a face covering](#) in indoor public places, and encouraging the use of face coverings in church buildings wherever possible.

Washing your hands to protect each other

Taking an LFD test before visiting someone in a hospital or care home

Please continue to follow the website for information about our Services. We look forward to welcoming you all back with us again. For those who are unable to return with us at this time we will continue to stream our weekly Sunday services on our Steps Parish Church YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI7mTSz5OI-vW_qMKKjcXAw



Charity No: SC014212

Session Clerk Letter



Without Gordon to inspire me this month for my letter I had to come up with my own idea. It's funny how sometimes I can simply pick up on a keyword or theme that he speaks of or writes about in his letter and it allows my thoughts to flow.

Without my '*Wingman*' it has been harder for me to '*Cruise*' through this publication without his guidance. I sought inspiration from my favourite film. It strikes me that there are many comparisons to the long anticipated movie that see's one of the Navy's top aviators, Pete "*Maverick*" Mitchell, pushing the boundaries as a courageous test pilot and dodging the advancement in rank that would seek to ground him, whilst; confronting the ghosts of his past and his deepest fears, culminate in a mission that demands the ultimate sacrifice from those who choose to fly with him. Yes, after almost 30 years the tickets are booked, the excitement builds and we hope not to be disappointed as we see how the story evolves.

Gordon's long overdue holiday reminds me of how we must seek to prepare ourselves as we try not to think of Gordon's retiral in little over 6 months. After more than 30 years of ministry to the Church Gordon and his family will begin a new chapter next year and I will be without a pilot in charge of our *Mission*.

Yes, we now seek to put down on paper our '*Mission plan*' and whilst Gordon and others are around to help us set it out he will not be around to see it through and we must look at navigating our way forward without a new '*Captain*' in command for a while.

It may not be a '*dogfight*' with a '*Mig -28*' but it still feels like a dangerous course we fly!

What new things can we do together that will generate energy and enthusiasm?

What do we consider our skills and assets to be ? and how do we utilise these talents to engage effectively within our community?

I look to those wiser around me both internally within our congregation and at cluster level to reassure me of the journey ahead and of our *Mission* goals and how we achieve this plan for the greater good of our church as we endeavour to continue proclaiming, nurturing, responding and transforming whilst striving to safeguard the intergity of our ship (pardon the pun!).

Time will '*fly by*' until the next installment is revealed in our July *Prospect*

Have you guessed yet what movie we are all going to see next week ?I can hardly contain my excitement.

With Affection

Lorraine x



Latest Bulletin

Dear Supporters,

This month saw our AGM and a chance to share the work of LHM with our members and supporters. We were delighted to have been invited to present the annual report of the chair of the board, Rev Professor Roger Sturrock to Glasgow presbytery at their meeting of May 10th.

If you would like to book a speaker for your Church, Guild, Probus, Rotary, Golf Club, or Youth group in the year ahead, our chaplain would be keen to hear from you or any group in your area who would like to find out about our work.

April brought with it a levelling off of the number of folks using our free meal provisions;

Food Service	Breakfast	Lunch
Meals	633 (-55)	1296 (-32)

During the month of April, Angela, our Interventions worker, along with our lovely volunteer Gill, provided support on 127 occasions. Emotional support as always was most common with benefits advice and support coming in a very close second.

Angela our interventions worker has been supporting Morgen, a student studying HNC Social Services at City of Glasgow College, who has been on placement here at LHM since December 2021. "It's been a pleasure to support and guide her through her learning experience, it's given us all the opportunity to look at our own practice in order to continue to provide the best possible service to the vulnerable men and women who come through our doors."



Our student Morgen says, "I have really been enjoying my time here at LHM, It's opened my eyes to the struggles/issues that people have. I have particularly enjoyed learning how to help and support them, I have loved getting to know everyone."

As Morgen's placement comes to an end we thank her for help and kindness and wish her all the best for her future.

Annual Homelessness Service.

@LHM 35 East Campbell Street, G1 5DT.

Guest speaker, Rev Iain Greenshields, moderator designate, Church of Scotland

SAVE THE DATE: Friday 9th September 2022, 6.45 for 7pm start.

The most recent, 6 week Presbytery Pioneer Intro Course was hosted in LHM during April and May. We are delighted to have been able to welcome participants and course leaders to share their pioneer and missional projects in a space whose heritage has seen over 110 years of mission to the city of Glasgow. We look forward to supporting many more presbytery wide events in the future. Should you be interested in bringing an event to LHM please speak to chaplain.



In this resurrection season, we read Psalm 23 and recall the characteristic of the guiding voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd. For a good number of people in our transient community there are considerable barriers and gatekeepers, which prevent or deter access to the place of rest, support and nourishment. We offer our prayers for justice; that barriers might be broken down in our households, community, parishes, local and national government; that gatekeepers steward resources with the open handedness of Christ; that unjust systems of wealth distribution are dismantled.

Jesus taught that His flock/ followers would recognize His voice. What is this voice from the margins saying to you?

**Deacon Claire Herbert,
Chaplain to LHM.**



“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD and he will repay him for his deed”

(Proverbs 19:17)

What a busy month at the LHM. Staff have been on First Aid training with Hebe Highland First aid who provided a bespoke course tailored to the unique environment that is the Lodging House Mission. Daytime activities are now in full swing with indoor soccer, table tennis and bingo all taking place as well as guitar group, choir and lots of other activities. It is great to see restrictions lifting and LHM being filled with Joy and laughter again.



I have taken the current donations from the back of the church and will drop them in to the LHM this week. Again, thank you to all who have popped something into the box it is much appreciated. If anybody would like to contribute the LHM are currently looking for donation's of UHT (longlife) milk as a priority. My next uplift of donations from the church will probably be Sunday 19th of June so if anyone would like to add a carton of UHT milk to their shop and pop it in the box at the rear of the church I will collect it then.

Jacqueline

Highlights from the General Assembly 2022

Our New Moderator



Rev Dr. Iain Greenshields

The minister of St Margaret's Community Church in Dunfermline, Fife, will serve as the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2022-23. Rev Dr Iain Greenshields will begin his year-long role of ambassador for the Church of Scotland in May 2022, succeeding the 2021-22 Moderator, the Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness.

- Her Majesty The Queen wrote a letter to the Church of Scotland applauding the role of congregations in offering support to Ukrainian refugees and 'welcoming the stranger', as well as providing Christian concern for God's creation in tackling climate change, and supporting communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Her Majesty also put forward her prayers for the leadership of the Church as they proceed to consider the future of parish life and make difficult decisions regarding buildings and congregations.**
- **The General Assembly has voted in favour of creating a new scheme to support parish ministers struggling to pay manse energy bills.** An overture brought forward by Rev Bryan Kerr, minister of the Greyfriars Parish Church in Lanark, South Lanarkshire, called for existing Church funds to be used. He said many ministers live in "ill-equipped and expensive to run" manses with their families and some are weighing up whether they can afford to continue in their roles
- **A historic vote has taken place which will allow Church of Scotland ministers and deacons to marry same-sex couples.**
The General Assembly voted to change a standing church law to allow the right to apply to become an authorised celebrant to conduct same-sex ceremonies by 274 votes to 136. The decision, which would enable ministers and deacons to opt-in to a new scheme, came after a majority of presbyteries – 29-12 - approved the "Solemnisation of Same Sex Marriage Overture". "However, no minister or deacon will be required to participate in the solemnisation of, or be involved in the arrangements for, a same sex marriage unless they explicitly wished to do so.

- **The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has called for a windfall tax on oil and gas companies to help tackle the "crisis of fuel poverty".**

Commissioners backed a motion urging the UK Government to take immediate action to help the poorest in society who have been hit hardest by soaring energy bills by 288 votes to 83.

- **Commissioners at the 2022 General Assembly gave a ringing endorsement to an historic agreement between the Church of Scotland and the Catholic Church in Scotland, proposing that it be named the Saint Margaret Declaration, after the 11th Century Scottish Queen venerated for her missionary Christian faith and her kindness and generosity to poor people.**

The declaration of friendship offers 'a decisive and irrevocable statement of our friendship with one another, based on our shared faith in Christ.' Already approved by the Bishops Conference of the Catholic Church in Scotland, the declaration is the culmination of more than 100 years of dialogue and emphasises the shared faith and common ground that unites the Churches.

- **Social care workers have been credited with transforming the lives of thousands of people over the last 12-months.** Despite the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, CrossReach staff continue to "rise to the challenge" to provide love and care to adults and children across the country.

- **Congratulating the Church of Scotland on delivering a successful General Assembly in challenging times, royal representative Lord Hodge said that seeing the Kirk in action had reassured him that along with the challenges, there were new opportunities ahead.** Lord Hodge, who as Lord High Commissioner is Her Majesty The Queen's personal representative to the Assembly, also used his final address to apologise for adding to those challenges by contracting Covid, postponing his in-person attendance and leading to the cancellation of the traditional open day parade and events at Holyrood Palace.

- **A minister has become the first woman to take up the role of Principal Clerk of the General Assembly on a permanent basis.**



Rev Fiona Smith

Rev Fiona Smith joins a select group of people – around 40 – who have served in the leadership role since 1572. She succeeds Rev Dr George Whyte in the post, which requires in-depth knowledge of church law, history, practice and procedure.

Image courtesy of Church of Scotland

A Wee Thought

In the week of the General Assembly, I found myself preparing a speech for an organisation in Chryston celebrating the 250th Anniversary of its founding. Its founding fathers were inspired by the Scottish Enlightenment that remarkable period from 1685 to 1815 when Scotland was, truly, a world leader.

Decisions and actions of the Church of Scotland started off this momentous period. After the killing times of the 1600's, Scotland needed a new direction and the efforts of the Church to place a school in every parish became the springboard for, arguably, the greatest period in Scottish history

The Church encouraged learning and free thinking and people such as Adam Smith, David Hume, Robert Adam and many more came to the fore. Scotland and particularly Edinburgh together with Paris and Venice became acknowledged leaders of ideas and radical thinking. Voltaire, the French philosopher said it is impossible to walk 100 yards in Edinburgh's High Street without meeting 15 men of true genius. There followed 300 years of much success and world acclaim as Scots excelled in every walk of life, with the Church playing a significant part.

Sir Winston Churchill, in his History of the British Empire said, "of all the worlds small nations no one, with the possible exception of the ancient Greeks, has made a greater contribution to world civilisation than the Scots." In 2001, A. Herman an American historian wrote a book, "***How the Scots Invented the Modern world***".

But what of Scotland today? In Glasgow we have the busiest criminal courts in Europe, the acknowledged drugs capital of Europe, distressing suicide rates, over reliance of food banks and help agencies, major health problems and, as the recent pandemic proved too many vulnerable people. We have many families who are third generation unemployed, with little motivation or purpose and who have children who sadly are likely to follow suit. Literally thousands of millions of pounds have been spent in the past fifty years to bring about improvement, yet my experience on the front line, and published statistics, tells me the situation is getting worse.

We need a change – we need a new form of Enlightenment - we should learn from the Past. Our Queen, quoting Churchill, said the further we look into the past the better we are able to plan the future. I believe Faith Groups and their leaders still command the greatest level of respect and that should be utilised to effect change

The Church is going through tremendous change - I've never seen it so animated, hopefully the awakening of a sleeping giant! My wish is that when all is settled regarding restructuring and Mission planning, the Church will take a lead to engage with other Faith Groups and together work with Government to improve the welfare and well-being of vulnerable people.

Jim Hope



	Welcome at Door	Welcome	Beadle
June 5th	R. McGovern	S. MacLean	H. Baker
12th	C. Skinner	E. Watson	S. Baker
19th	H. Baker	Mgt. Crawfort	J. Burns
26th	S. Gowans	A. Macdonald	J. Hope
July 3rd	R. McGovern	S. MacLean	H. Baker

If you are unable to do your weekly rota. Please ensure you arrange someone to cover.

June Thomson

Congregational Roll



Death: **Mrs. Marie Lamming** **16/ 05/2022**
(Fifth Ave Stepps)

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away”

(Revelation 21:4)

Birthday Celebrations



Belated congratulations to Mrs. Mary Bruce who celebrated her 85th birthday on the 11th of May. Mary was able to celebrate with a day trip out to Blair Drummond Safari Park in Stirlingshire supported by her Daughter “ young Mary”. Our very best wishes to Mary and may she enjoy good health and happiness for the coming year.

Kirk exodus

Many ministers set to quit after strain of Covid funeral surge

By Mary Wright

The Church of Scotland faces a mass exodus of ministers claims the *Daily Mail* (May 18th 2022) after a deluge of pandemic funerals took a heavy toll on officiating clergy. It comes as a drive to make the Kirk 'lean and fit for mission' sees the full-time ministry posts cut back in the next ten years.

Officials say many older clergy are thinking of retiring due to the 'vast amount' of funerals they had to carry out. The Kirk plan involves reducing the number of presbyteries and a comprehensive review of buildings, which will see some historical churches sold off.

It says it will move away from maintaining properties 'appropriate back in the 1950s' and 'shrink' to reflect modern worship. It also warns of a 'growing deficit' as dwindling congregations mean many churches no longer pay for themselves.

The General Assembly last year approved a plan to reduce full-time ministry posts to 600 'predicated on availability and affordability'.

Speaking ahead of this year's General Assembly, which began this week, a Church of Scotland spokesman said a reduction of around 200 posts would take into account the fact 40 per cent of current full-time ministers are over 60. As many as 60 per cent are expected to retire in the next decade.

'Took a very heavy toll'

The spokesman said: 'We have quite a number aged 60 and above. 'Given the kind of impact on ministers in the last couple of years trying to minister through the pandemic' they could retire at any time now'. He added 'They were doing a vast amount of funerals-really difficult funerals which took a very heavy toll on a lot of ministers, where they were having to tell families they could not attend.'

In future the Kirk will use trained readers, deacons and ordained part-time clergy to help share the workload of fewer full-time ministers.

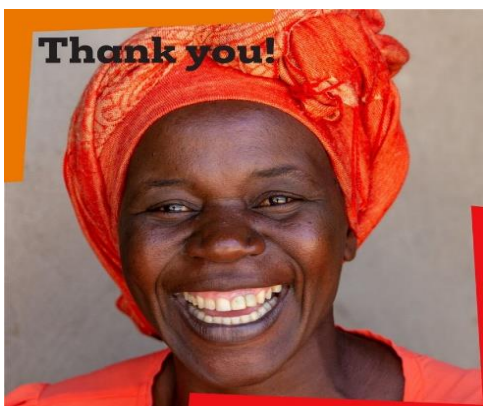
The spokesman said: 'You won't have the same costs attached to them as you do with a minister, where traditionally they had a manse and a stipend. That is financially quite hard to sustain.

'There has been a real constriction in congregations and it is through the congregation that we get the funding for the minister. The money that worshippers give in the plate goes back into the central Church which is used to pay ministers.' The spokesman admitted the restructuring would involve 'painful readjustment'. He said: 'There are big changes afoot

because some of the churches that are earmarked for not being used in the future are of interest to the wider public, as well as to people within the Church because they have a huge historical significance.'

The Kirk was having to make 'some quite hard decisions'. It said it is switching emphasis from trying to maintain the physical infrastructure in its current format to 'faith-based action', which includes a plan for 'delivering 100 new worshipping communities'.

The spokesman said: 'We are moving away from maintaining structures that were very appropriate back in the 1950s because the majority of people were being baptised and would routinely be taken to a Church of Scotland on a Sunday - but that is not the case now. 'And we have not shrunk to reflect that.'



Agnes Machona: 37, from the Zimbabwe BRAC programme

Thank you all for your generous donations during Christian Aid week 15th - 21st May 2022.

To date our count from the envelope collection raised £250 with an additional £205 to be added through Gift Aid making a Total of £455. If you weren't in church and would still like to donate you can do so by going online via the following link <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/> and make your donation.

From all at Stepps Parish Church we thank you all for your generosity.

Seeds of hope and tools of change

Why seeds and tools?

By providing the practical solution of seeds and tools, people in some of the world's poorest communities can grow fresh food to feed themselves and their families.

In South Sudan, where drought and floods have left many people hungry, this simple but essential gift means people can grow maize and sorghum. This will help see them through a lean season, and bring them more hope for the future.





*Image courtesy of
Danburymint.org*

Come and Join the Celebration

Royal Jubilees are an occasion to celebrate the life and reign of a monarch. In June, we will celebrate the reign of Her Majesty The Queen, now the longest in the history of our nation. Marking her 70 years as our monarch, these celebrations will be the first ever Platinum Jubilee in the UK. Events will take place around the country, some long in the planning and others impromptu. These will unite neighbours, friends, and communities in tributes to the Queen and in the celebration of the common good which she has sought to promote throughout her life. In Scotland, we rejoice in the strong links of Her Majesty to our land and people. And, as a Church, we offer thanks to God for the steadfast faith which has sustained her throughout her reign.

As her Majesty the Queen celebrates her Platinum Jubilee Year you are all invited to come and join the nation in marking this very special celebration by coming along to our Queen's Jubilee Afternoon Tea and family fun day in the church grounds on Sunday the 5th June 2022 from 2-4 pm hosted by Stepps Community Development Trust. The event is free and all are welcome. Afternoon tea will be served by our Chestnut Café staff and share in some memories from previous Jubilee celebrations or perhaps the coronation itself. If you have any memorabilia marking the great day or special memories from the Queen's long reign why not bring them along on the day for others to enjoy. If you know of someone that would like to attend but mobility is an issue, then please get in contact with Ailsa from SCDT at steppscdt@gmail.com or on 0141 779 1427. Travel can be arranged by taxi to and from the event.

**Queen's Jubilee Afternoon Tea
and family fun day**
hosted by
Stepps Community Development Trust
Sunday 5 June 2-4pm
Stepps Parish Church Hall, Whitehill Ave
Free Event - all welcome

**THE QUEEN'S
PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022**

Bouncy castle, inflatable assault course and games
More info at <https://steppscdt.org>

Sunday Club News

Important dates:

Sunday 29th May: Sunday club on
Sunday 5th June: Sunday club off.

Saturday 11th June: Outing to Pro bowl and McDonalds

Sunday 12th June: Prizegiving



There will be a fun afternoon on Sunday 5th June from 2pm to 4pm. Come along and enjoy bouncy castle, assault course, crafts, face painting and games. Also, the Chestnut Cafe are providing food and drinks. Come along and bring your grown ups.

We have had a mixed up session but a very enjoyable, worthwhile and very rewarding time. Thank you everyone who helped us over this session and a special thank you to the children and their grown ups. Arainn our super young helper, will be leaving in August. She is going to Edinburgh University. Thank you Arainn for being a great bonus to Sunday club and we wish you good luck from all of us.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday and we will see everyone in August.

Anne, Esther, Linda and Arainn



Holy Communion Sunday 5th June.

We will once again celebrate Holy Communion on Sunday the 5th of June. Currently, it is still not permitted to share common elements. Therefore, common cups will not be used and plates will not be passed from person to person. Instead, we will be serving the elements in individual glasses, after observing good hygiene practices and washing our hands. A

glass of wine and a piece of bread in individual glasses and condiments will be collected by individual worshippers.